

I don't agree with the change in licenses as proposed.

The entrance class should be the Technician Class, with the addition of limited HF privileges. This should give the new amateurs the experience to encourage them to upgrade to General.

The Novice should be upgraded to the Technician License. By upgrading the present Novices to General, then creating a "New" Novice class you will be creating a nightmare of confusion.

The Advanced should be upgraded to Extra.

The 5 WPM Morse code requirement for General should not be dropped. With the heightened interest in National Security, the Morse code knowledge will heighten the ability of the Amateur Service to aid in necessary communications support. It is a very reliable mode in the worst of communications conditions. The equipment is the absolute minimum requirement. The newer digital modes may handle more traffic, when they work, but are worthless even with a small hardware problem. The average Amateur is powerless to fix a complex more modern communications system, of today, but can fix most Morse systems, in time of emergency. One of the prime values of the Amateur radio service is the training of skill communicators, ready for any challenge.

It is also felt that the Extra Class Morse Code requirements should be upgraded to 13 WPM. Ludwig Koch in the 1930's did a lot of experimenting and research into learning the Morse code. He found a lot happened with speeds above 12 WPM. We began to learn mostly by sound and not by analyzing the parts of each character. This is why I feel the 13 WPM is a good goal for us to set as a standard. Also, most of the Extras, I know, took on the goal of obtaining the Extra Class for the challenge. There is no challenge, if the requirement is not raised, from where you are.

Present Extra Class Amateurs, that have received their upgrade under the present 5 WPM, should not have to retake the higher 13 WPM test to keep their license. This should no create any problems for the FCC or the VE's as there in no higher class to pass the credit of this requirement up to.